

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief Lowell M. Porter



Captain Fred Fakkema
Government and Media Relations
(360) 753-5299 – office
(360) 753-5469 – fax
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>

*****For Immediate Release*****

Date: October 8, 2004
Contact: Government & Media Relations
Phone: (360) 753-5299

WSP Chief Recognizes Individuals for Work on AMBER Alert Web Portal

Chief Lowell M. Porter recognized several individuals this morning for the contributions in implementing the new state-wide AMBER Alert Web Portal. These individuals formed a partnership between cities, county, and state governments, private organizations, and broadcasters in planning, developing, and implementing this very important program. This group includes the Department of Transportation, Emergency Management Division, Department of Information Services, Washington Association of Broadcasters, and the Washington State Patrol.

In January 1996, nine-year old Amber Hagerman was abducted while riding her bicycle in Arlington, Texas. A neighbor was able to provide details about the car and abductor to law enforcement officials, but no system was in place to get the information to local residents quickly. Amber's body was found four days later.

The AMBER Alert Portal employs next generation technology to simultaneously send messages to pagers, cell phones, and e-mail accounts, notifying subscribers of an abduction. This notification direct from law enforcement officials provides subscribers with the information needed to identify the suspect, thus helping law enforcement apprehend the suspect and save the child's life. States that adopt the portal will, for the first time, be linked into a seamless, national AMBER alert network providing detailed, local information on an abducted child. The AMBER Portal will not replace the Emergency Alert System, but enhance it.

"Time is one of the most crucial elements when a child is abducted. The Justice Department estimates that three of every four victims are killed within the first three hours of being abducted" stated Chief Porter.

The AMBER Alert Portal enables law enforcement to use a secured sign-on to enter all of the necessary data regarding a missing child. With one keystroke, an officer disseminates this live data and any updates to all stakeholders, such as other law enforcement agencies, broadcasters, border agencies, utilities, transit authorities, 911 call centers, lotteries, and any other network that can engage individuals into the search for the abducted child. And, for the first time, law enforcement officials can communicate live, directly with members of the public who subscribe to the Portal.

"When it comes to children we all realize how precious they are. The AMBER Alert Portal is yet another fantastic tool that law enforcement can use to reunite an abducted child back with his or her family and bring the abductor to justice," added Chief Porter.

To subscribe to the AMBER Alert Portal, go to www.amberalert911.com and click on subscribe.

###